

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 2 and 14 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 3-13 to read as follows.

1. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus for executing recording by ejecting ~~inks~~ ink onto a recording medium based on ~~recorded~~ recording data using a recording head for ejecting ~~inks~~ the ink from ejection ports, comprising:

recovery means for executing recovery processing for maintaining the ink ejection capability of the recording head;

a cap member for capping the ejection ports of the recording head;

capping means for moving the said cap member in a direction ~~where the in~~ which said cap member approaches the recording head and in a direction ~~where the in~~ which said cap member is separated from the recording head;

measurement means for measuring a cap-open period that is an elapsed period of a cap-open state while recording onto the recording medium, in which the ejection ports are not capped with the said cap member; and

control means for executing the recovery processing by the said recovery means when the cap-open period cumulated by cumulation means exceeds a predetermined period,

wherein said control means resets the cumulated period when the recovery processing is executed while the cap-open period is cumulated.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the said measurement means uses the elapsed period during which the recording is executed to on the recording medium as the cap-open period.

4. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the said capping means can move the said cap means member to a capping state in which the ejection ports are capped with the said cap member and to a the cap-open state in which the ejection ports are not capped with the cap member state.

5. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recovery processing executed by the said recovery means includes suction recovery processing for discharging inks the ink from the ejection ports by suction.

6. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
calculation means for calculating the amount inks of ink discharged from the recording head by ejection;

wherein when the cumulated period is longer than a the predetermined period, the said control means further determines whether or not the discharged amount of the inks ink calculated by the said calculation means is larger greater than a predetermined amount, and when the discharged amount of the inks ink is larger greater than the predetermined amount, the recovery processing is further executed by the said recovery means.

7. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the discharged amount of the inks ink is larger greater than the predetermined amount, the said control means resets the cumulated period and the calculated discharged amount of the inks ink.

8. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the said calculation means calculates the discharged amount of the inks ink by counting the number of ink droplets ejected from the recording head.

9. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

determination means for determining whether or not the recorded recording data to be recorded next is present; and  
memory means for storing the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the inks; ink,

wherein when it is determined that the recorded recording data to be recorded next is not present, the said control means controls the said capping means such that the ejection ports are capped with the said cap member as well as and stores the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the inks ink in the said memory means.

10. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the said recovery means executes the recovery processing by discharging inks the ink by suction, and the recovery processing is executed differently by changing the amount of inks ink to be sucked.

11. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the cap members are provided, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated by the said measurement means for each cap member.

12. (Currently amended) A An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of the recording heads are used in correspondence to the colors of the inks to be recorded, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated for each of the ink colors.

13. (Currently amended) A recovery control method in an inkjet recording apparatus, which apparatus that executes recording by ejecting inks ink onto a recording medium based on recorded recording data using a recording head for ejecting the

inks ink from ejection ports, and comprises recovery means for executing recovery processing for maintaining the ink ejection capability of the recording head, a cap member for capping the ejection port ports of the recording head, and capping means for moving the cap member in a direction where in which the cap member approaches the recording head and in a direction where in which the cap member is separated from the recording head, the recovery control method comprising the steps of:

measuring a cap-open period that is an elapsed period of a cap-open state while recording onto the recording medium, in which the ejection ports are not capped by the cap member; and

executing the recovery processing by the recovery means when the cap-open period cumulated by cumulation means exceeds a predetermined period; and  
resetting the cumulated period when the recovery processing is executed  
while the cap-open period is cumulated.

Claim 14 (cancelled)